

LOCAL MAN INVENTS

Device For Taking Rodents by Scores Is Result.

Some Talk of Installing Plant at St. Helens to Manufacture the New Invention.

Never again will there be any occasion for any house, barn warehouse or even community to be infested with rats, mice or other vermin. Nor will there be any occasion for farmers to be troubled with diggers or squirrels. No more will it be necessary for people to be bothered with the odorous pole cat. All because Tom Laws has invented the best combination mouse, rat, squirrel, skunk and vermin trap that was ever placed on the market. For years Mr. Laws has been working on his trap and he has at last succeeded in perfecting one that is truly perfect. Such perfection has been attained in the construction of this trap that it will rid a house of the vermin within a few days and will always be ready to take prisoner any stray that may have the audacity to venture near it. Last Sunday evening he demonstrated the efficiency of his trap. He took it down on the dock and set it in the warehouse. Next morning he went there to get his trap and it was fairly well filled with six beautiful wharf rats all imprisoned in such manner as to prevent their escape. These six rats furnished considerable amusement for Jay Demings dog, Gyp, who caught them as they were turned loose on the street and easily killed them as fast as they could come. Of course the trap will be successful without Gyp because a bucket of water can always be found in which to dump the vermin or a cat may be found. In fact there are numerous ways to kill a rat even without the assistance of Gyp.

Mr. Laws has worked at odd times on the trap for a number of years. He has built several traps, experimenting and trying until he now has the best one ever invented. He has applied for a patent and will soon commence the manufacture of the traps. The name of the trap is "Always Set" combination mouse rat, and vermin trap. A box of wood on three sides covered with a wire screen on top, open on both ends in which is placed on a balance two smaller boards. At either end of the box is a gate which closes upon the entrance of the animal. So nearly perfect is the arrangement that the weight of a broom straw will close the gates. After finding himself in this prison the rat or mouse discovers a very inviting means of escape into another hole out the side of the box and after getting in there, he literally pulls the hole in after him, for it closes so quickly that he finds himself in another prison from which there is no escape except by going into a wire cage from whence there is absolutely no escape. Immediately upon his leaving the first entrance the trap automatically opens the gates ready for the reception of any other that may come along. The trap is well constructed and will sell for about \$1.25 to \$1.50 and will surely catch the rats. A later occasion of experimenting produced even better results. After setting one night on the dock there were 9 big rats taken prisoner.

Really it is a wonderful trap which can be used with or without bait with good effect. It will catch the rats and that is the prime object of a rat trap. As soon as arrangements can be made Mr. Laws is going to set up a small factory here in St. Helens for the manufacture of his traps. That there will be market for them there can be no question. He will start on a small scale and increase as the trap becomes widely known and it will be only a short time until thousands of rat traps will be turned out every week in St. Helens. Mr. Laws will be pleased to explain the trap to any person desiring to look it over. He has one at his office and if an early morning call is made there he will probably have several wharf rats on exhibition.

HIGHER TAX RATIOS.

State Tax Commission Fixes New Schedule of Values.

Through the action of the State Tax Commission last Friday taxation ratios have been made higher in practically every county in the state. The higher ratios, however, do not mean higher taxes, but mean that valuations for taxable purposes are more nearly the actual values than was the case last year.

The ratios are for the use of County Assessors in determining the rate of taxation of public service corporations and for the purpose of arriving at each country's proportion of taxes for use of the state. Under

the law it is the duty of the State Tax Commission to find the actual value of public service corporation property and fix a valuation for taxable purposes in the same ratio of actual value as the County Assessors fix for the assessment of other property. The property of public service corporations is the only property actually valued by the commission. A three per cent increase is made for Columbia County this year over the previous year, being increased from 75 per cent to 78 per cent.

VALUE OF OREGON PRUNES.

The 1914 Crop is 32,322,480 Pounds Valued at Nearly \$2,000,000.

There are 14 prune-drying and packing plants in the state, and their total value is \$143,250, according to statistics prepared by the labor commissioner. These plants evaporated and packed 32,322,480 pounds of prunes during the year, 619,124. The total sum paid for and their value is estimated at \$1,107,193.

STATEWIDE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

Enterprises That Will Employ Labor and Add to the General Welfare of the West.

Flavel offers free factory sites. Linn County manufacturer road drags at \$7 each.

The sawmill at Loon Lake, Coos County, is running.

Astoria will vote on a \$25,000 bond issue for parks.

Lebanon votes December 7 on establishing light plant.

Warrenton is taking steps to build a first class high school.

Astoria mud flats are to be filled in by the dredge Columbia.

W. Grimes will erect a \$20,000 brick building at Marshfield.

The press rejoices over the defeat of freak and crank measures.

The Fisher-Boutin mill at Springfield is filling its ponds with logs.

The new creamery at Hood River opens with F. W. Blum manager.

The Troy laundry will erect a \$10,000 dry cleaning plant at Astoria.

The North Bend Manufacturing Co. has orders for doors from England.

J. H. Gray, of Prineville, becomes owner of the Oregon hotel at Hood River.

Zoph Bros. of Lebanon, will erect a \$22,475 High school at Athena.

The S. P. Co. is reported to have bought the line down the coast to Eureka.

Junction people celebrated second year of the success of their local creamery.

The Municipal railroad insures building two new sawmills near Grants Pass.

The Estabrook Co. of North Bend and Bandon is getting out 70,000 ties per month.

The C. & E. L. R. Co. has won its suit in the U. S. Supreme Court for possession of tide lands.

A plant on the McKenzie is producing 250 gallons turpentine and 5000 pounds of rosin per month.

The S. P. yards, at Brownsville, are being filled with building materials for reconstruction work.

The State Press Association is leading a fight to cut down running expenses of Oregon half a million.

The State Reform School with 88 boys November 1, cost \$73,450 for the biennial period or \$835 per capita.

Coos Bay sent nearly six million feet of lumber to the San Francisco market the last two weeks of October.

L. W. Campbell as manager of the Northern division of the S. P. Co. has been given charge of the Coos Bay and Eastern.

A campaign has been started at Portland to consolidate and wipe out boards and commissions and reduce state expenses half a million.

The Portland Gas & Coke Co. will lay its mains around Milwaukee on account of an ordinance cutting the price of their gas to \$1.00 per 1000 feet.

Robert S. Towse, owner of the Blue Ledge mine, Jackson County, will develop the property and build a railroad to connect with the Bullis line.

Owing to increased needs of the docks commission and enactment of State Wide Prohibition, Portland taxes cannot be reduced for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1915. As a result of defeating freak laws and radical labor laws better financial conditions prevail. The interstate bridge bonds sold at a premium, with several bidders. New York capitalists have taken hold of an irrigation project in Baker County.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Oregon's Early Observance of the Occasion.

Governor Gaines Issues First Proclamation for Thanksgiving in Oregon in 1852.

It has been sixty-two years since the first Thanksgiving proclamation was issued in Oregon, when, on November 9, 1852, Governor John P. Gaines, issued the first Thanksgiving edict, designating the second Thursday in December of that year as Thanksgiving Day. This was not only the first proclamation of that character issued in Oregon, but it is said to have been the first Thanksgiving proclamation issued west of the Rocky mountains. The apparent earnestness and sincerity of the author is manifest in every word and line of the appeal for general observance of the day. The proclamation follows:

The First Proclamation.

The year now drawing to a close has been of general prosperity to the citizens of Oregon territory. The blessings of Divine Providence have been abundantly vouchsafed to all classes of our population. Our ample harvest has required the labor of the husbandman. The mechanic, the merchant and the professional man have alike successfully pursued their several avocations, while the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday have not been allowed to devastate our rising country.

"We have been generally exempted from wars within our own limits and the Federal Republic has gone forward in her glorious career of moral and intellectual progress, unobstructed by any untoward events. In addition to these, general occasions of gratitude, we have especial cause of congratulation in the advancement of science and virtue in our midst. It is fitting that we should, as a people, acknowledge our obligations and render our thanks to the gracious Author of all our mercies.

"In conformity to a usage in most of the states of the Union, I, John P. Gaines, do hereby appoint the second Thursday in December next to be set apart as a day of public thanksgiving to Almighty God—and invite all citizens of the territory to suspend their usual business and observe the day in appropriate exercises.

"Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at the Executive office in Salem, this ninth day of November, A. D. 1852.

JOHN P. GAINES.

"By the Governor.

"E. HAMILTON, Secretary of Oregon Territory."

The Last Proclamation.

Governor Oswald West, on Monday, November 23, 1914, issued his proclamation to the people of Oregon, asking for a general observance of the day, and proclaiming Thursday, November 26, as Thanksgiving Day. Governor West's proclamation follows:

"When we pause, in this, the twilight of the closing year, and consider the blessings which have come to us as our portion, we are brought to realize that God, in his infinite wisdom, has blessed us with his hand of good fortune, and thrown his mantle of protection around us. For, while beyond the seas cities and fields are being laid waste, and death, closely followed by pestilence and famine, is knocking from door to door, peace and security are ours.

"Bountiful harvests have blessed the land and disease has stayed its hand. We have weathered the storm which, for a moment, threatened our industries through the closing of our markets by the foreign war, and are now facing what is bound to be an era of prosperity. "It is fitting, therefore, that we cease, for a brief time, our activities and return our thanks to Almighty God for his mercy and his sustaining hand."

LUMBERMEN WILL MEET.

Lumber Business is Sorely Struck in Northwest Country.

The West Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association has called a mass meeting of all the lumbermen of the Coast for Monday evening, December 7, to be held at Tacoma, opening with a dinner at 6:30, followed by a general meeting to discuss conditions of the lumber industry. Figures submitted show that 195 lumber mills in Oregon and Washington are running with an average output of 41 per cent of their capacity, showing a curtailment of 59 per cent existing at the present time in the operations of the industry in the Northwest.

When it is realized that there are

approximately 1400 lumber and shingle mills in Washington and Oregon, many of which are not operating, and the others producing only 41 per cent of their normal output, it can be readily understood that the lumber industry is hard hit. The normal output of Oregon sawmills is about two billion feet annually, but the 1914 record will undoubtedly show a 50 per cent decrease. On account of this paralysis labor receives the everest blow.

Our own community is to be congratulated upon the fact that the local lumber institutions and their allied industries are able to weather the business storm and proceed along the lines of industrial activity to the extent which they are now operating.

WAR TIME ORDERS.

Britain and France Becoming Heavy Buyers.

British orders for more than fifteen million dollars worth of American products have just been placed. These purchases consist of automobiles, wagons, sleds, harness and similar equipment, and are due to the belligerent state of affairs existing in Europe. The French government has just placed an order for more than one million dollars worth of automobiles with a Jackson, Michigan, factory. An order from the Britons for five million one-pound tins of corned beef was announced at Chicago Tuesday.

Utah to Furnish Blankets.

The Knights Woolen Mills, of Provo, Utah, received on Monday a rush order for 50,000 blankets through the San Francisco agent of a foreign nation not named in the order.

FRANCE WANTS OUR HORSES.

Orders Placed at Portland for 1200 Animals.

The French government is in the local market for cavalry and artillery horses, orders being placed in Portland this week for about 1200 animals, the average price being \$125 to \$150 per animal. Wilbur Muckle, of St. Helens, is just now in Eastern Washington in quest of horses for the belligerent nations, and at last reports had assembled about 150 head. He will have his animals inspected about the 10th of December.

IMMENSE WHEAT ACREAGE.

Largest in the World's History Probable For Next Year.

Charles M. Daugherty, statistical expert of the Department of Agriculture, in a report submitted on Tuesday, says the greatest wheat area in the world's history will be planted for the 1915 harvest, as a result of the war in Europe. An excerpt from the report follows:

"As a result of the war in Europe a worldwide tendency exists to increase the acreage of wheat. Doubtless the most extensive area in the history of the world will be seeded during the present autumn and coming spring. A prospective demand for this important food grain by the importing countries of Western Europe is likely, if seeding conditions favor, to give extraordinary stimulus to sowing of both winter and spring varieties in the two great exporting countries of North America, and to those sowings now being finished under auspicious circumstances in British India."

The probable production of wheat in Australia for 1914-15 is from 22,000,000 to 29,000,000 bushels, the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome announced in a cablegram to the Department of Agriculture. The crop of 1913-14 was 104,000,000 bushels. Drouth caused the reduction.

OREGON APPLES FOR SIBERIA

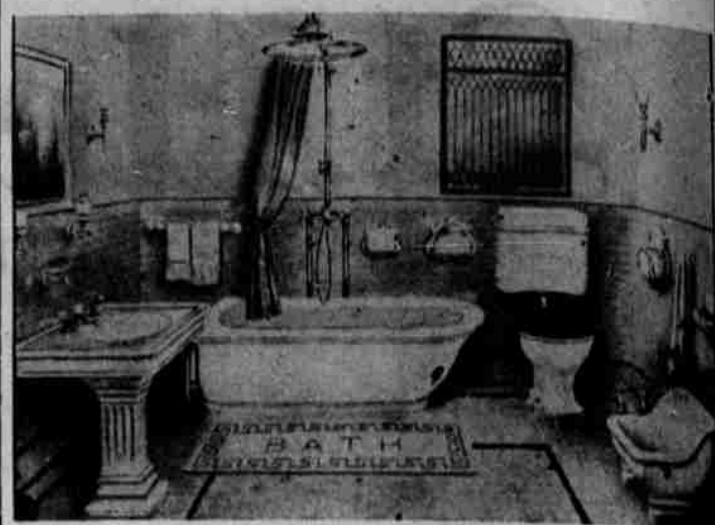
Shipment of 125 Boxes From Hood River Made Recently.

Oregon apples are finding a market in far-away Siberia and the call for stock this year is unusually heavy. A shipment some time ago of 125 boxes of Hood River apples to Vladivostok was received in excellent condition and met with ready demand from the natives. Within the last few days other shipments have gone forward, being routed by way of Puget Sound from which point they will go by steamer to Japan, thence to Siberia. No advice has been received as to the prices at which these apples are sold to the ultimate consumer.

Successful Canning Season.

The new Hoke cannery, at Medford, has closed its first season and has been able to pay a dividend of 6 per cent, a very unusual result of the first year's operation of a co-operative concern. The cannery put up 35,000 cases of Rogue River Valley fruits and vegetables during the season and the management expects to at least double this record next year.

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ON EXHIBIT

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